ARE YOU A MECHANIC REQUIRED TO TAXI AN AIRCRAFT?

Stay Alert, Especially When Visibility is Low.

Extra vigilance is required when visibility decreases and your ability to maintain a desired level of situational awareness becomes significantly more difficult. During periods of reduced visibility, you should keep in mind:

- Cockpit workload and distractions tend to increase.
- As cockpit activity increases attention to communications tends to decrease.
- Fatigue level increases.
- Increased vigilance is needed when snow and other weather conditions obscure surface markings and make signs difficult to see.

Report Confusing or Deteriorating Surface Markings and Signs.

Report confusing or deteriorating surface markings and signs, and inaccurate airport diagrams to the tower or your supervisor. Be familiar with reported hazards, particularly those contained in the NASA Aviation Safety Reporting System (ASRS). The ASRS maintains a data base of reported hazards. Alert messages from ASRS are forwarded to appropriate airport authorities for action. Airport authorities are requested to provide responses to ASRS. This serves as an important check on the type of corrective actions being taken and closes the loop in the incident reporting process.

To obtain ASRS forms, write to NASA Aviation Safety Reporting System, P.O. Box 189, Moffett Field, CA 94035-0189. Forms may also be printed from the ASRS website at...http://asrs.arc.nasa.gov/forms

FAA Great Lakes Region
Runway Safety Program Office, AGL-1R
2300 East Devon Avenue
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018
www.faa.gov/runwaysafety

Reducing Runway Incursions

FOCUS: MECHANIC TAXIING AIRCRAFT

FAA GREAT LAKES REGION
RUNWAY SAFETY PROGRAM OFFICE

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GREAT LAKES REGION RUNWAY SAFETY PROGRAM

HOW CAN A MECHANIC TAXIING AN AIRCRAFT CAUSE A RUNWAY INCURSION?

A pilot deviation is an action by a pilot that violates any Federal Aviation regulation, e.g., a pilot fails to obey air traffic control instructions to hold short of an active runway when following an authorized taxi route. When a mechanic commits the same error while taxiing the aircraft for maintenance purposes, it results in a mechanic deviation. This may result in a determination that the error is a runway incursion or a surface incident. A runway incursion creates a collision hazard or results in a loss of separation with an aircraft taking off, or intending to take of, landing, or intending to land. Runway incursions have increased over the past decade. Extra care and vigilance are the keys to reversing this adverse trend.

Detailed investigations of runway incursions have identified three major areas where you can help.

- COMMUNICATIONS
- AIRPORT KNOWLEDGE
- COCKPIT PROCEDURES FOR MAINTAINING ORIENTATION

Keep Communications Clear and Concise.

Effective cockpit/controller communications are the key to safe surface operations. A clear understanding of instructions should never be compromised, especially during busy times when the frequency is congested.

- Listen before you transmit. If able, monitor radio communications to establish a "mental picture" of airport activity.
- Think before keying your transmitter. Keep communications with the controller clear and concise.
- Never assume. Ensure you understand all instructions.
- Read back runway hold-short instructions and clearances verbatim.

Be Familiar with the Airport.

Ground operations can be most demanding and complex.

- Review airport diagrams before taxiing.
- Know where you are on the airport and where you are going.
- Keep airport/taxi diagrams readily available during taxiing.
- Be on the alert for aircraft, vehicle and pedestrian activity.

Follow Proper Cockpit Procedures.

Proven and effective procedures in the cockpit are imperative for safe ground operations.

- Maintain a sterile cockpit environment and avoid unnecessary conversation.
- Constantly scan outside of the cockpit, especially when on or near runways.
- If lost, notify Air Traffic Control immediately.
- Make your aircraft visible by proper use of aircraft lights.
- If unfamiliar with the airport, don't hesitate to request progressive taxi instructions.
- Insure proper radio operation and check audio panel, volume control, and squelch settings.
- Know and follow lost communication procedures and use good judgment should radio failure occur.
- Never stop on an active runway.